

***REV. GEORGE GUNST***

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PURSUANT TO JCCP 4286 SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

**Vicar for Clergy Database**

Clergy Assignment Record (Detailed)

**Rev George August Gunst***Current Primary Assignment*

<i>Birth Date</i>	1/2/1927	<i>Age:</i>
<i>Birth Place</i>	Bedford, Pennsylvania, USA	<i>Deanery:</i>
<i>Diaconate Ordination</i>		
<i>Priesthood Ordination</i>	4/26/1950	
<i>Diocese Name</i>	Archdiocese of Los Angeles	
<i>Date of Incardination</i>	11/1/1946	
<i>Religious Community</i>		
<i>Ritual Ascription</i>	Latin	
<i>Ministry Status</i>	Deceased	
<i>Canon State</i>	Diocesan Priest	<i>Incard Process</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Begin Pension Date</i>		
<i>Seminary</i>	St. John's Seminary, Camarillo	
<i>Ethnicity</i>	English	

**Fingerprint Verification and Safeguard Training***Date Background Check**Virtus Training Date***Assignment History**

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Beginning Date</i>	<i>Completion Date</i>
Deceased	5/25/1995	
Retired	7/31/1990	5/24/1995
Chaplain-Military, Active Service, U.S. Military	1/1/1979	7/30/1990
St. Kevin Catholic Church, Los Angeles Pastor, Active Service	1/20/1975	8/15/1979
St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, Reseda Associate Pro Tem, Active Service	12/2/1974	1/19/1975
Sick Leave	8/24/1974	12/1/1974
St. Linus Catholic Church, Norwalk Pastor, Active Service	6/12/1972	8/23/1974
Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Pomona Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	1/22/1970	6/11/1972
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Baldwin Park Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	8/29/1969	1/21/1970
St. Anne, Santa Ana Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	4/10/1969	8/28/1969

Chaplain-Military, Active Service, U.S. Military	5/13/1967	4/9/1969
St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, North Hollywood Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	2/1/1965	5/12/1967
St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, Los Angeles Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	5/15/1964	1/30/1965
St. Anne Catholic Church, Santa Monica Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	6/4/1963	5/14/1964
Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, Los Angeles Director, Active Service, At Our Lady of Victory Mission	8/6/1960	6/3/1963
Resurrection Catholic Church, Los Angeles Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	8/6/1960	6/3/1963
Nativity Catholic Church, El Monte Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	1/18/1955	8/5/1960
St. Michael Catholic Church, Los Angeles Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	3/13/1952	1/17/1955
St. Leo Catholic Church, Los Angeles Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	5/9/1950	3/12/1955

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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

DATE May 16, 1963

OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

FILE NO. Z-904 696

FROM: E. L. Recknor, Lt.  
Norwalk Station Juvenile Bureau

TO: F. W. Rosenberg, Chief  
Detective Division

SUBJECT: MISSING JUVENILE - INVOLVING CATHOLIC PRIEST

On the morning of May 15, 1963, Sgts. Mike Guttierrez and Lena Rae Lloyd interviewed Rev. George A. Gunst, a priest in charge of Our Lady of Victor Chapel at the corner of Union Pacific and Herbert, L.A. 23, in regards to the activities of REDACTED REDACTED, F/W, Missing Juvenile, under the above file number.

Father Gunst states that he met Judy at the Las Palmas School for Girls at East Los Angeles. He stated that he was not well acquainted with her there because the protestant girls were never allowed to attend catholic services. In regards to REDACTED most recent missing report, he states that she called him a couple of days after she left home, but that she did not tell him where she was staying, however, he thought she was staying somewhere in the colored area of Los Angeles. REDACTED arrived at his house at 1316 S. Herbert on Sunday afternoon in a cab. He paid the cab fare and states that it was between \$5 and \$6.00. He acknowledges that he had received phone calls from REDACTED parents, but that he did not call them to tell them that she was there. He allowed her to sleep in an empty house across the street at REDACTED (This house used for Youth Activities, but unoccupied).

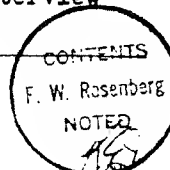
On Monday, he states that REDACTED looked through the papers at employment ads, and that in the afternoon, he gave one of his parishioners, a women living at REDACTED REDACTED, some money and had her take REDACTED to buy some clothes. He states that he gave the woman, not REDACTED the money. He acknowledges that REDACTED parents called him on Monday, and that he told them that he had not seen her. He claims to have called her parents a couple of times during the time REDACTED was missing, although they say they had never received a call from him. He further stated that he just couldn't go out and tell the police that REDACTED was there because word would get around that he had "finked" on her.

When questioned as to what REDACTED may have told him about her problems at home, he stated that she just said that she and her mother did not get along, but that REDACTED said it was strictly her REDACTED fault. He went on to say that REDACTED just wanted to be on her own, and he couldn't see why they didn't let her go out on her own and get a job; we could find her place to stay.

Father Gunst inquired during the interview if a missing report was the same as a warrant, say for Petty Theft. He stated that he was sleeping when the officers arrived to pick up REDACTED that REDACTED and several other teenagers were in his home; that REDACTED answered the door and then called him.

Toward the end of the interview, he stated that at some previous time the authorities at Las Palmas had told him that REDACTED had been severely beaten by his step-father, and states that in March when REDACTED previously came to his home, that REDACTED also had told him that her step-father had beaten her. However, in the beginning of the interview

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Z-904 696

when he was questioned quite closely as to what <sup>REDACTED</sup> had told him about her problems, he had mentioned nothing concerning this beating.

<sup>REDACTED</sup> was interviewed both before and after our interview with Father Gunst, and the following is the gist of this statement: <sup>REDACTED</sup> states that she left home in one of the family cars and went to the home of a <sup>REDACTED</sup> a colored girl, whom she had met at Las Palmas School for Girls, who lives in the vicinity of 135th & Central. She states that she does not remember for sure, but she believes she called Father Gunst on the same day she left home, and says that on that occasion <sup>REDACTED</sup> believes, he told her that she should go home. She states that she stayed <sup>REDACTED</sup> home, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday; that she slept the next two nights <sup>REDACTED</sup> Friday and Saturday, in parked cars in the vicinity of the <sup>REDACTED</sup> home; and <sup>REDACTED</sup> on Sunday she took a cab to Father Gunst's home. She stated that he paid the cab fare, which was somewhere around \$5.00, and that on Sunday night, he gave her a sleeping bag, and allowed her to sleep in a house across the street from where he lived.

She states that on Monday she looked in the papers in Father Gunst's home in an effort to find a job, and that she made some phone calls from there pertaining to jobs. She states that on Monday afternoon, Father Gunst gave her \$15; that she took a bus and went to Atlantic Square by herself, where she purchased a capri outfit, shoes and skirt with which to go job hunting. <sup>REDACTED</sup> further stated that the \$3.00 that she still had in her wallet was the balance of the money that Father Gunst had given her. She was questioned closely as to who she went shopping with, and denied that there was anyone with her at any time.

She states that on Monday evening, she and several other teenagers, boys and girls, were in the home of Father Gunst, that Father Gunst was sleeping when the officers arrived, and that she called him to the door.

<sup>REDACTED</sup> further states that in the early part of March, on a previous runaway under file <sup>REDACTED</sup> she had come to Father Gunst's home, where he had allowed her to sleep in his home inside. She was questioned as to sleeping arrangements, and stated that Father Gunst slept in his room, and she slept on a couch in the living room.

<sup>are</sup> Subject's parents, a Mr. and Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> Mr. <sup>REDACTED</sup> is a <sup>REDACTED</sup> attached to the Central Division.

Subject's parents are exceedingly disturbed over Father Gunst's actions in this matter. They state that they called Father Gunst the evening of the first day that subject was missing, and that he stated that he had a phone call from her, but did not know where she was. There were subsequent phone calls from the parents to Father Gunst throughout the time that <sup>REDACTED</sup> was missing. They state that on Monday, May 13, they talked to Father Gunst at approximately 11:30 in the morning, at which time he told them that he had had a phone call from <sup>REDACTED</sup> on Sunday, at which time she told him that their car was parked in the vicinity of 135th & Central Avenue, in front of a bowling alley; and that the car had a flat tire. He again stated that he had not seen <sup>REDACTED</sup> Mr. <sup>REDACTED</sup> states that he again called Father Gunst's residence, somewhere around 5:30 to 6 PM, Monday afternoon, and that a young girl answered, and he was sure it was <sup>REDACTED</sup>'s voice. He states that he asked immediately to speak with Father Gunst, questioning him again as to whether <sup>REDACTED</sup> had seen her, and at this time told Father Gunst that if <sup>REDACTED</sup> called him again, to tell her that they were prepared to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law anyone who was

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haboring her. Mr. <sup>REDACTED</sup> states that upon completing this phone call, he immediately called the Norwalk Station, stating that he was sure that <sup>REDACTED</sup> was at Father Gunst's home, and requesting a check be made there.

As a result of this phone call, the East L.A. Station <sup>REDACTED</sup> was requested to check Father Gunst's home, which they did, and at this time <sup>REDACTED</sup> was in the home, and was picked up and detained.

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APB  
 4/17/74  
 April 17, 1974

Magr. John Rawden

Dear Monsignor:

This is to complain about the conduct of Father George Gunst, pastor of St. Linus Church in Norwalk. I am a priest, and I am writing anonymously, as I am too cowardly to give my name.

There are many complaints alleged against him by his parishioners -- and I understand that a petition is being circulated at present to ask his removal. But I limit myself to several that have especially been brought to my attention.

As you know, he has the name of being dedicated to working with addicts. It seems that he has dedicated himself almost exclusively to rehabilitating two teen-age girls, who are constantly in the rectory and who go with him frequently in his camper on overnight trips. He has been seen intoxicated with them too.

The parish is greatly neglected, I am told. Fr. Gunst is away a lot; and the other priests are following in his neglectful habits.

What I would like to suggest is that you appoint a priest of great integrity as an associate in St. Linus, and ask him to report to you from time to time as to what he finds there. I could hardly expect you to take as Gospel truth what you receive from an anonymous source.

Yours in Christ

A worried priest

Interim  
 11/30 Wednesday\*  
 921-7066  
 921 6649

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Rev. Msgr. John Rawden  
1531 West 9th St.  
Los Angeles, 90015

53677



CONFIDENTIAL

11 May 74

YOUR EMINENCE

Thursday, 9 May 74 a delegation from St Linus, Norwalk came to Immaculate Conception in the evening to lodge complaints against their pastor, Father George GUNST.

1. Young ladies (REDACTED) frequently spend the night in the Rectory in sleeping bags - they are immodestly dressed in public and in the Rectory;
2. Father Gunst has appeared intoxicated on several occasions in the presence of members of this delegation;
3. Fr. G is frequently absent from the parish - he has absented himself from major parochial functions and celebrations;
4. His interests are extraparochial (Indians in Arizona, Navy activities, drug abuse activities)
5. There are five automobiles for three priests - frequently the young ladies mentioned above are drivers of parochial cars;
6. There is a rumor going around the parish that the people are supporting a "brothel" i.e. the Rectory;
7. Father G. has already indicated that he will not be available for the farewell to Sister REDACTED, the principal of the school for many years, on Sunday, May 19th;

These seemed like very good people - all active in the parish and members since its inception in 1961.

Bishop Ward and I brought most of the above to Father Gunst's attention about two weeks ago.

I doubt if this matter can be corrected at St Linus by Father Gunst.

JAP.

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CCI 008019

of the  
 confidential

I Hunt  
 I should  
 speak with  
 him directly  
 in

CONFIDENTIAL

18 July 74

ARCHBISHOP

As a result of a call from a parishoner\* in St Linus and confirmation with the the associate, Father REDACTED , I telephoned Father REDACTED REDACTED requesting that he go to the rectory and, in your name, ask Father Gunst to accompany him to the St Jude Rehabilitation Center.

It seems that there was a public incident in the presence of children in the playground of intoxication.

JAR

Father Gunst is now at St Jude's. I would recommend that we insist on his admission to a Guest House.

REDACTED

A handwritten signature, possibly reading 'Vic' or 'Vic' followed by a flourish, is written over a horizontal line.

46866

Confidential

27 July 74

1- Resignation  
 2- Guest House  
 3- Consideration of future pastorate  
 4- answer - Fri 15 Aug 74

Confidential

Archbishop

I feel that these counselors are incorrect in their recommendations i.e. that Father G. return to St Linus.

The following summarizes the history of this case over the past year or so:

1. Two priests asked to be transferred from St Linus;
2. Navy commitment of two weeks - arrived intoxicated - uncertain as to whether he served or not - reported to us by Naval authorities;
3. Complaints from parishoners - referred to the recory as a "house of ill repute";
4. Father Gunst officially warned by Bishop Ward and me;
5. Absenteeism from the parish;
6. Public spectacle of intoxication in the presence of children;
7. Arrested for driving under influence about three weeks ago.

My recommendation is that he be sent to Guest House immediately, with the understanding that he will not return to St Linus.

Further, I recommend that Father REDACTED be appointed ADM pro temp, for a period of at least six months to test his competency for a permanent appointment there.

JAR

## ST. LINUS CHURCH

12967 BELFAIR STREET • NORWALK, CALIFORNIA 90650 • PHONE 921-7068

August 10, 1974

His Eminence Cardinal Manning  
1531 W. Ninth St.  
Los Angeles, Ca. 90015

Your Eminence:

Msgr. Rawden has indicated that I should resign as pastor of St. Linus. Since the only comment you made in regard to my staying here was, "Maybe you won't want to go back there," I would like to receive an indication from you as to what you think regarding a resignation.

It is my feeling that I should not resign until I have had the opportunity to speak to you about it. That way I will know more fully the ramifications of my actions and what I can expect in the future.

I therefore submit my resignation as pastor of St. Linus Church in Norwalk, to become effective upon speaking to you personally (by telephone or, at my expense in person), and providing that at that time you wish to receive said resignation.

I realize that it will be some days after I go to Rochester that you will return from vacation, but since there will be a pro-tempore administrator here anyway, I don't see any need to rush my resignation.

Sincerely in Christ,

George A. Gunst

c.c. Msgr. Rawden  
REDACTED

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CCI 008024

## CLERGY DATABASE

Last: Gunst

Title: Rev.

First: George

Middle:

Color **Blue**

05/15/63 Excerpts from the Sheriff's Dept. Report: REDACTED called Father after a couple of days after she left home. She arrived at his house. He rec'd. phone calls from her parents, but he did not call them to tell them that she was there. In the early part of March, she had come to Father's home, where he allowed her to sleep in his home inside. Her parents are exceedingly disturbed over his actions in this matter. They state that they called him the evening of the first day that she was missing, and that he stated that he had a phone call from her, but did not know where she was. They called him several times. Her father called the Norwalk Police Station stating that he was sure that REDACTED was at Father's home, requesting a check be made there. As a result of this phone call, the East L.A. Station was requested to check Father's home, which they did, and at this time REDACTED was in the house, and was picked up and detained. 12/29/64 Fr. REDACTED, the Pastor of St. Alphonsus, wrote to REDACTED to request that he be transferred to another parish on the occasion of the scandal by officiating at a Rosary while apparently intoxicated. 05/11/74 Excerpts from Msgr. Rawden's memo to Card. Manning: A delegation from St. Linus came to Immaculate Conception to lodge complaints against the Pastor, Father Gunst. Young ladies frequently spend the night in the rectory in sleeping bags -- they are immodestly dressed in public and in the Rectory; Father has appeared intoxicated on several occasions in the presence of members of this delegation; He is frequently absent from the parish; his interests are extraparochial i.e. Indians in AZ, Navy activities, drug abuse activities; the young ladies are drivers of paroquial cars; there is a rumor going around the parish that the people are supporting a "brothel" i.e., the Rectory; Bishop Ward and I brought most of the concerns to his attention about two wks. ago. I doubt if this matter can be corrected at St. Linus by Father. A petition is being circulated to ask his removal. 06/07/74 He was arrested for driving under the influence. He was sent to Guest House. 11/25/74 Discharged from Guest House. 07/05/78 Mr. REDACTED met with REDACTED Card. Manning's secretary. REDACTED his wife, is divorcing him. She is in love with Father. On many occasions, "more than 30" she has stayed overnight at St. Kevin's and slept with Father. This according to her three own children who also stay frequently there. REDACTED was aware that his wife was "attached" to Father for some time, but not until recently did he know that they were having an affair for some time. Recently, she spent a wk. with Father in Hawaii. In May of '78, Father, REDACTED, and her three children flew to NV. He bought her a brand new car. In Feb. of '78, while on a camping trip, Father verbally and physically abused his wife, her 11 yr. old son, and tried to kick her 15 yr. old son. 07/14/78 Excerpts from Msgr. Rawden's memo to Card. Manning: Mrs. REDACTED on her own initiative, came to the rectory. She indicated that there was a trip to Hawaii, but that the room was divided. Her main concern is the possibility of being considered an unfit mother and losing the custody of her children. On July 13, I interviewed Father. He told me that "under advice of his attorney, he should say nothing to anyone." However, he did admit the Hawaii trip, and the trip to NV for the truck. He and Mrs. REDACTED adamantly denied any immoral acts. He is very disturbed about the matter, but I think he offered a solution. He indicated that had applied for active duty in the Navy. I suppose there might be a possibility that he'd be accepted again. 08/01/90 Retired from the Navy.

05/25/95 RIP

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CCI 008025